



Bad Medicine

The United States Geological Survey and the Environmental Protection Agency have been gathering data regarding the effects of unused and expired medication are having on surface waters. Please see the web sites below for more information:

<http://www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/chemistry/ppcp/greenpharmacy.htm>

<http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc.html>

What can you do as a consumer to protect our waterways? Listed in the table below are some options. Please keep in mind that pharmaceuticals should be kept in their original container since the labels may contain safety information, the container is chemically compatible, and the caps are typically water tight and child proof

Medicine	Ask pharmacist if pharmacy will take back unused or expired medication	Add water or cooking oil to medicine & recap. Enclose in bag or plastic waste container. Dispose of in solid waste	Add absorbent material such as kitty litter, saw dust, or flour to liquid drugs & recap. Enclose in bag or plastic waste container. Dispose of in solid waste.
Antibiotics (liquid)	X		X
Antibiotics (non liquid)	X	X	
Medicine (Liquid)	X		X
Medicine (non liquid)	X	X	

Disposal information is from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-tas-cau-RXbrochure.pdf>

Call the City's Pollution Prevention Program at 873-7058/7059 for more information

